

**OAKLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH
AND ENVIRONS**

1870-1880

EXCHANGE OF HOUSES

The story of how the M. W. Crumpler Home became the Captain Charlie Godwin Home and how the Captain Charlie Godwin Home became the M. W. Crumpler home by an exchange of houses.

Matthew W. Crumpler, Sr. came to Chuckatuck from Isle of Wight County in the early 1800's. He had four children; Julius, John, Robert, and Joe, all by a first marriage and all of whom married and had families.

When Mr. Crumpler, Sr. came to Chuckatuck, he lived in what is now the John Dailey home with his children by his second wife, George, Matthew W., and Lulie. George and Lulie died much earlier than Matthew W. He lived to be 86. Matthew Sr. lived to be over 100.

After Matthew Sr. and his family lived in the Dailey home, it was known as Crump's Place.

Matthew W. farmed land most of his life.

In the early 1800's he bought what is now the Raye and Mildred Knight home. I was never told who owned the home at this time.

Matthew W's sister married James E. (Luck) Pitt and lived at Holladay Point Plantation, as it was called then, (later Holladay Point Farm), with her three children; Maggie, Mary Lou, and Clarence. Luck Pitt farmed Holladay Point Farm for Captian Charlie Godwin who was the owner at this time. He also owned what is now the F. A. Spady Sr. home, but was the M. W. Crumpler then.

Boats used to come to the pier for people to load and unload produce. One of the boats that came to Holladay Point Farm was the Steamer Boat "The Virginia Dare". It went from Norfolk to Suffolk going by Holladay Point Farm loading and unloading produce such as watermelon, potatoes, etc. Potatoes during this time sold for \$1.25 a Barrel. A barrel was around 11 pecks.

James E. (Luck) Pitt fell overboard and drowned while living at Holladay Point Farm. It is not known whether he fell from the pier or a boat.

According to my father, Mr. F. A. Spady Sr., who was 92 years old on May 29, 1980, there is no one living today that knows. Luck Pitt was the husband of Lulie Crumpler Pitt, who was Matthew W. Crumpler's sister.

After Luck Pitt died, Matthew W. brought his sister Lulie and her three children to his home to live, (now the Raye and Mildred Godwin Knight home). This is said to have been around 1800.?

At this time Captain Charlie Godwin owned what is now the M. W. Crumpler, F. A. Spady Sr. home located on Route 10, Godwin Boulevard, right in front of the Chuckatuck Triangle, Separating three roads; one ~~leading to Suffolk, one to Smithfield and Richmond, and one to Portsmouth~~ and Norfolk.

Sometimes in the next few years, Captain Charlie Godwin and Matthew W. Crumpler decided to exchange houses, the M. W. Crumpler home became the Captain Charlie Godwin home and the Captain Charlie Godwin home became the M. W. Crumpler home. Godwin owned the home and property as far as the Chuckatuck School. All of the property was traded. No money was involved.

The M. W. Crumpler home on Route 125 was in bad shape at the time and Captain Godwin remodeled the complete house. Property was very cheap during this time.

Matthew W. farmed land in quite a few areas as land was very plentiful at this time.

He also operated a small grocery store by his home on Route 10 for many years. His nephew Wilson Spady ran and operated it.

Mr. F. A. Spady Sr. built a garage by the store and operated it for many years, working on cars. He also owned an old wrecking truck that pulled many a car out of the ditch or helped out if a car was in trouble.

Matthew W. also operated a meat house that was located down the hill on land by the Mill Pond across from the old Grist Mill on Route 10.

He had many black women and men working for him in the meat house.

The late Buddy Graves (a black man) was his right hand man. He would help to bring the hogs into the building and get them on an old wooden elevator to be carried upstairs for the women to cut up. The wooden elevator was very large and open on all sides and was pulled up to the second floor by ropes on all four sides.

He also butchered cows in back of his home on Route 10 at one time and had them cut out in a building back of the house where slaves lived 200 to 300 years ago. Years later it was used as an old kitchen.

Caesar Bland, a Black man in Chuckatuck, tells this story. He said Mr. Crumpler bought a cow from C. R. Fulgum, who lived on Route 125, as you get ready to make the curve going to the Nansemond River Bridge on Route 125. He said Mr. Crumpler, Walter Williams, Buddy Graves, and Fletcher Cowling all rode in M. Crumpler's Model T to get the cow. The cow got away and wandered into Old St. John's Church yard and became mean. Mr. Crumpler sent Caesar back to get a gun and kill the cow. The

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cow was skinned and cut out in the church yard.

A few years ago, Mr. P. D. Howell, Jr. and his brother Leroy Howell purchased the land where the meat house was located. Naturally, the meat house was long gone but the old brick foundation still stood. P. D. Howell built a home right on the old foundation and now rents it. It is on the land by the Old Mill Pond (called Crumps Mill) across the road from the Old Grist Mill.

The first people that lived in the home were Larry Mizelle and his wife Juanita Kelly Mizelle. They lived there around two years.

P. D. and Leroy Howell are the sons of Matthev and the late Parker D. Howell.

P. D. is married to the former Ramona Rose and they have four children, all single at present and members of Oakland Christian Church in Chuckatuck. Dr. Leroy Howell (dentist) is married to Martha Glenn. They have two children, young boys, Ralph and John.

Leroy practiced surgery while in the army at Fort Jackson and at Brook Army Medical Center at Fort San in Houston, Texas in San Antonio.

Practicing Physician 62 Years

Dr. Eley Made Good Vow to Keep
Working As Long As He Lived

Dr. L. L. Eley was born in 1871 and passed away in 1954. It was typical of Dr. Eley that he said just days before his death ~~that he would never stop practicing medicine as long as he lived.~~

And true to his word, the Chuckatuck Physician was administering medicine the very day his fatal seizure began approaching.

At the age of 83, he had not been well enough to make house calls anymore but he had continued to practice in his office. And, as always, up to the last, the Doctor was still furnishing his own medicine to patients, included in the regular cost of a visit.

Believe it or not the last year of Dr. Eley's life was the busiest year he had ever had, according to his son, L. L. Eley Jr., in 62 years of practice.

At The Head Of Class

Dr. Eley began his long medical career after graduating at the head of his class at the University of Maryland Medical School in 1892.

Eyeing his brilliant record in school, famous John Hopkins Hospital offered the 21 year old Doctor a post on it's Surgical Staff. It might have been fame and fortune beckoning.

But Dr. Eley's heart was in administering to the rural folk he had grown to love in his native Chuckatuck and he left the big city behind him. After two years in rural Maryland, he returned to spend the rest of his days in the Chuckatuck-Crittenden area.

Never Regretted It

And he never regretted it. Many is the time he said, "If I had my life to live over again, I'd live it the same way."

Emm. Spady Kelly

And if his fame had been local and his fortune non-existent since he started his rural practice, Dr. Eley has left behind a wealth of gratitude and affection in the area where he practiced.

For a period of two generations, he was the only Doctor in the area. He delivered all the babies-some 2,000 of them-born in that time in area homes. He was at the bedside when death paid it's visit.

~~He was available to anyone at any time. He never had any office hours. He came when you called or needed him and opened his office whenever someone called for treatment.~~

It didn't matter whether a patient had money to pay him or not.

As a longtime friend of Dr. Eley, Mills E. Godwin Jr. said, "He didn't practice for the money, but for the good he could do."

Another old acquaintance of the Doctor, Hugh V. White, who was school Superintendent at one time complained that Dr. Eley "never charged enough" even when he did collect from patients.

He was an outstanding practitioner in addition to being devoted to his profession patients he has treated will tell you.

Maynard Carson, 34 at the time, tells of an experience, in fact two experiences: Maynard is an Eclipse boy and calls himself a living monumental, to Dr. Eley's skills. When Maynard was 11, he took sick and the Doctor diagnosed the case as Polio. The boy was taken to a Newport News hospital where the Doctors said he had the Grippe.

"If he had had the Grippe, I would've kept the boy home"; the Doctor said. Dr. Eley's diagnosis was confirmed by a Richmond Specialist and the Chuckatuck Doctor cured Maynard by having the boy's Mother exercise him on a flat board.

Another time when Maynard Corson was 16, he shot himself in the foot in a hunting accident.

Dr. Eley picked him up in the yard, no I believe they said in the road and carried him to the hospital. They recommended taking his foot off. Dr. Eley said "No" as long as there was a chance of saving it.

And Dr. Eley had the foot put in a cast and he did save it. Maynard Corson played basketball after recovering.

In the process of saving the foot, Dr. Eley visited the Corson home in Eclipse 76 days in a row and then every other day for two months.

Maynard said he once mentioned Dr. Eley to a medical specialist in Richmond, who said Dr. Eley must be a fine diagnostician to judge by the cases he sent to the Richmond Hospital.

Dr. Eley's capacity to forget everything else in the face of need for his services is illustrated in the story that Hugh White tells:

Hugh White was living with Dr. Eley at Crittenden where the former was school principal at the time. He drove the Doctor to a maternity call late on a cold wintry night. The Doctor went into the house and forgot about Mr. White while the school principal sat in the car all through the night freezing.

That was one of countless nights that Dr. Eley spent waiting in county homes for a Mother to give birth. He gave up maternity calls many years ago because they were too arduous.

Dr. Eley was more than a Doctor, he was also a counselor and friend to his patients. He was a Doctor for everything and everybody, colored and white, rich and poor.

Dr. Eley was a native of Chuckatuck and was in ill health for about a year before he passed away. He practiced medicine for 62 years in Nansemond County. He was the son of the late Benjamin Claudius and Eugenia Cowling Eley. He was graduated from the old Suffolk Military School and the Medical School of the University of Maryland. He was a member of Benns Methodist Church, The American Medical Association, the Chuckatuck Ruritan Club and the Crittenden Red Men's Lodge.

Flu Epidemic Hits Nation

In 1917-1918 a terrible siege of Flu hit the nation. Dr. Eley was taken terribly ill and was confined to bed for quite a few weeks. A nurse from St. Vincents Hospital in Norfolk came and stayed in his home to care for him and help in whatever way she was needed.

There were many sick people in the area at this time, so Mrs. Laura Eley, wife of the Doctor decided to help out. She and the nurse that was attending Dr. Eley decided to start making house calls and see what they could do to help.

Dr. Eley would tell them what kind of medicine to dispense, as he was still dispensing his own medicine.

According to Mrs. Eugenia Stroupe, daughter of Dr. Eley, her mother never lost but one patient. The St. Vincents Nurse gave her the last rites.

Eugenia said that her Mother would wear a red coat sweater to make house calls and would take the wrap off when she came home and empty her pockets to see how much money had been taken in. The house calls were \$3 a call, included with medicine.

The Epidemic was all over the Chuckatuck, Crittenden, Drivers, and Bennetts Creek area as well as the whole nation. The epidemic lasted about 3 weeks. So Mrs. Eley made quite an impression on the Doctor, also.



Dr. and Mrs. L. L. Eley

Dr. L. L. Eley practiced in a small building in the corner of his yard in Chuckatuck. The office had two small rooms;. The front room was used as a waiting room and the room behind it was where he saw his patients. And many a patients he saw. He dispensed his own medicine from his office. A couch was there for patients feeling badly that needed to lie down. There also was a metal chair that was used for people to sit in if he was pulling a tooth.

He delivered thousands of babies while practicing.

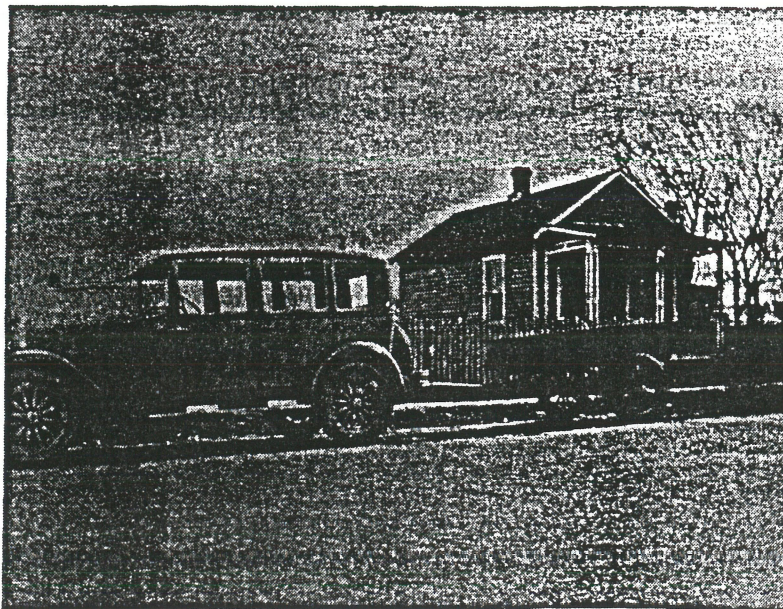
As he grew older the office building was moved beside the house so he could walk from his front porch right into the office.

A few years after Dr. Eley's death the office was sold to Scott Saunders farm and used it for a tenant house. Some years ago it burned.

Martha, Scotts wife said Mrs. Eley sent her the rocking chair that was in the office and told her to get busy and get something to rock. The chair was in the front room (waiting room) of the office.

Dr. Eley was a very fine man. If any one was sick or needed his help day or night he would come to them.

The memory of Dr. Eley should be dear to all who knew him and knew of him.



SKETCH OF OAKLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

All material was taken from Dr. Newman's "Sketch of Oakland Christian Church."

Prior to 1851 there stood by the road just across from the home of the late George W. Gayle, a Methodist Church by the name of Cowlings Chapel. It was named after the Cowling family, prominent Methodist people, whose home was the "Billie Moore Farm." Bishop Ashbury preached there and according to the records in his journal "the building was not fit for a horse stable." Granting this to have some truth in it, I am sure that its membership included some of the best families in that section. I have certain knowledge of only two, the John Monroe Cowling family and the Hannah Shrivvers family. She was the great great grandmother of Mills E. Godwing Jr. (Bud Godwin.)

In 1851 the Cowlings Chapel people built and occupied Oakland as a Methodist church and the Cowlings Chapel building was torn down and removed to be used for some other purpose. Prior to this time there had been a succession from the Methodist Church of those who were opposed to the rule of Bishops. They were called "Methodist Protestants." The group from Cowlings Chapel which succeeded, organized Wesley Chapel Methodist Protestant Church in Chuckatuck and erected in 1850 the building much as it now stands (before addition,) and is at the present time, a Methodist Church.

Oakland continued as a Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Church until the local Methodist Protestants reunited with the Methodist Episcopal Church agreed to abandon Oakland and establish Wesley Chapel. In 1872 a group of members of the Christian Church in the Oakland Community, under their leadership of the late Dr. William B. Wellons served Oakland as Pastor the year he organized it, and was succeeded by Rev. E. W. Beale who had served Churches in North Carolina for many years. He served as Pastor of Oakland from 1872 until his death in 1881.

In 1887 Rev. H. H. Butler was called to the Pastorate of Oakland Church and served until the Autumn of 1895. An outstanding accomplishment of his ministry was the rebuilding and remodeling of Oakland as it was purchased from the Methodists. It was formerly a very small building about 36 feet by 40 feet, built of the best lumber, a new roof put on, a vestibule in front, 18 or 20 feet added to the rear, new stained glass windows put in, new seats and other improvements, making it practically a new Church building equal to any other rural church building in the country.

Dr. J. W. Johnson was called to Oakland as Pastor on the third Sunday in June 1898. He served as Pastor for over 50 years.

A Sketch
of
Oakland Christian Church Community and Folks During
the Period Between 1870-1880.

Recollections and Observations
by
Dr. N. G. Newman

This is not intended to be a sketch of Oakland church history, but a glimpse at conditions in the community covered by the church people of that time.

Starting at Oakland church and following the old Suffolk road south, as the road was at that time, for it has since been changed, you come first to the "White House" on the left recently known as the Davidson Farm. Here lived Rev. E. W. Beale, Oakland's pastor, and his family, consisting of Mrs. Beale, her sister, Mrs. Dickey, and five daughters. Then across the road, at the right then, was the old "Cowling Place" later known as the "Billie Moore Farm". This was owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Winn (Northeren people) and their son-in-law, Mr. Stone, and his son, Willie whom Mr. Beale Christened at Oakland when he was about 3 years old. During the ceremony the child kicked and cried byt Mrs. Winn held him fast until the ceremony was over. The Winns were Episcopallians but Mr. Stone became a member of Oakland, and was, at one time superintendent of the Sunday School. Mr. Stone was an Englishman who married Mr. Winn's daughter. He went to Suffolk in the later seventies, married again and was the father of the Stone brothers in Suffolk, and grandfather of Miss Louise Stone the well known bookkeeper at Lakeview Hospital.

Continuing south towards Suffolk, the next place on the right was Reid's Ferry, occupied by George Edwards. I do not know who owned it, but it was brick house located about where the "Henry Gayle" home now stands. Mr. Edwards had a number of children who became identified with Oakland church. The next place on the right, after crossing the creek was the "Budd Lassiters farm" owned and occupied by Alexander Moore, who had recently come to this community from Somerton in upper Nansemond County. Mr. MOore moved to the "Cowling Place" mentioned above, in the late "seventies" and he and family united with Oakland church. He was a deacon and a consistent member till his death. His children became active in the church, and some of their descendants are to this day. Later, in the seventies, he bought the "Cowling Farm" and spent the rest of his life there.

Turning back towards Oakland, the first farm on the right was the "Leecount Place", later known as the "Bunting Place", owned and occupied by George Bunting and wife and two sons, John and Robert. John Bunting was the father of the late George Bunting, a Clerk of Nansemond County Court at the time of his death. The Bunting were Methodists and rarely ever came to Oakland church. Next and across the Reid's Ferry Creek, was "Sack Point Farm". It was owned at that time by Henry Tynes Jr., as a part of his paternal inheritance. He lost this and all his other property through drink and died in poverty. He was a friendly, agreeable person. There were two settlements of the farm. One was occupied by Job Holland, who married Civilla Newman and had two children at the time about which we now write. He united with Oakland during the first years. His children became members as they grew up, and wife became a member late in life. The other settlement was occupied successively by John Robert Crumpler and family and John Powell and family. (James Richard Holland and family should be named before the John Powell family)

The Crumplers and Hollands were Oakland people. I do not know the church relations of the Powells at that time, but some of the children were members late, and some of their descendants still are.

Next was the "Stockley Farm" owned and occupied by Daniel Hatton and wife. Adjacent to this was the Clarence Hatton place. Clarence was the son of Daniel Hatton. Both father and son sold and left the community, the father going to Suffolk and the son to New York. They had no relation to Oakland church. Back from the road and on Nansemond river, was "Shackley Hill" farm. Do not know who owned it, but it was occupied by C. C. Thompson Sr. and wife (Eleanor, I think). He was known as Capt. Kit Thompson. A daughter Barbara, was a teacher in Oakland Sunday School and married John Henry Gayle. Among his sons were C. C. "Lum" Jr, Samuel and Thomas. Do not know the church relations of C. C. Thompson Sr--and wife, but their children became members of Oakland church, with their families and a large number of some of their descendants are now. The next farm to the north was the Butt's farm, as later known. The Kilbys lived on this farm in the seventies--the widow and three children, Eddie, Walter, and Julia.

Next was the "Pembroke Farm", on the river. Do not know who owned it. It was occupied at one time by the widow Pinner, mother of Jim, Arthur, Filmore, Charlie and Julia Pinner. It was also occupied by Mills Rogers Jr., his wife and son who were active members of Oakland. He united in the eighties, was elected a deacon and was a useful member. Lying by the side of this, and back from the Nansemond River, was the Jim Hunter Godwin place, now owned by the Marl Co. Here lived Mills Rogers Sr (an uncle of Mills Jr. named above) and his daughter and her husband. Robert Nelms and their afflicted daughter. She was an albino. She could see very little and could not talk. They all attended Oakland regularly, and always brought the afflicted child, who was at that time, about 12 years of age. Mrs. Nelms dressed her beautifully and gave her the utmost attention.

Again coming back to Oakland and taking the road to Chuckatuck, we come first to the home of B. C. Eley, located where Dr. L. L. Eley now lives. He was a charter member of Oakland church. His wife was Eugenia Cowling and was a member also of Oakland. The children joined the church as they grew up. Mr. Eley was the first superintendent of the Oakland Sunday School, a deacon, and used to lead the singing. He was one of the most active and useful members of those days. He had one daughter and five sons. Nannie was a teacher in the Sunday School and taught me in the early eighties. She married Arthur Pinner and moved to Baltimore. John was a traveling salesman and made his home in Suffolk. He had one son, Claude, who was for many years the Commissioner of Revenue in Suffolk. Ben was also a traveling salesman with his home in Baltimore. He never married and died in the prime of life. He left a considerable estate and left a legacy of \$500.00 to Oakland church, in addition to making a liberal contribution to the erection of the new building. Dr. L. L. Eley is a prominent physician now living in Chuckatuck. I have not kept informed about the other sons.

On the corner, in Chuckatuck, as you turn to the right, the present Lafayette Gwaltney place, was formerly known as the George Britton, or Brittain place. He and his wife lived there. They had no children, but had a foster daughter whose name was Sallie Duck. They partly reared some other children. Mrs. Britton was known as "Lady Cowling", a sister of Mrs. B. C. Eley Sr., and she made men's and boys clothes. She made the first suit I had made away from home. She was a very fine industrious woman. Her husband was an ex-Confederate soldier and a man of leisure.

Mrs. Britton was at first, a member of Oakland church, but withdrew in the seventies. Across the road where M. W. Crumpler and F. A. Spady now live, was the home of Dr. Bob Tynes, who was educated for a physician but did not practice. He was widower with one son, Robert Jr. who never married. If he had any church relations I never knew it.

Across the road and a little to the left lived "Dick" (perhaps Richard) Riddick, with two children. Sometime about this period he was married again--this time to Miss Rosa Webb, a daughter of Samuel Webb. They had no relation to Oakland, and I never saw them there. Between this home and the Joe Meadows store, later Capt. E. C. Ramsay store, was the home of Mrs. Bettie McRae, a widow with two daughters, Minnie and Alice. Mrs. McRae was the daughter of John Monroe Cowling. They were staunch Episcopalians. The girls occasionally came to Oakland. This home is the present home of C. H. Pitt.

Dr. George W. Butts, whose wife was a Miss Denson, daughter of Richard Denson, owned and lived at the present "R.B. Wood" home. They had four daughters two of whom are still living. They, the Butts, were staunch Methodists and rarely attended any other churches. Dr. Butts was a good man, a faithful physician and a valuable citizen, interested in every thing that ministered to the welfare of the section. He was an ardent temperance advocate, and did more, perhaps, to drive the bar-rooms out of that section than any other man. After retiring from active practice as a physician he served as Treasurer of Nansemond County till his death. There also lived in Chuckatuck at this period, as I recall, Joe Meadow, Julius Walraven and Capt. E. C. Ramsay. Joe Meadow was a merchant and owned some property elsewhere. (He probably owned the lot called the "Meadow Lot" next to the Capt. Ramsay home, on the north side of the road leading to Crittenden) Julius Walraven was a charter member of Oakland church. Mrs. Walraven was a staunch Episcopalian, but attended Oakland, and at times played the organ. She was woman of culture and refinement. Capt. Ramsay was a successful merchant and his first wife was a foster daughter of the Walravens mentioned above. Her name was Mollie. She was a woman of refinement, education and attractive personality. She was a very loyal and faithful member of Oakland church. She had three sons and four daughters. Capt. Ramsay united with Oakland church in 1883, served as deacon, church secretary and rendered otherwise valuable service.

On the right hand at the first turn of the road going towards Holladay's Point, there was a home on a small farm now owned by the Marl Co., and the house may have been torn down. In this period it was occupied by Joe Crocker and family consisting of his wife, mother ("Aunt Nancy") and some small children. None of the older Crockers, so far as I know, was connected with Oakland church, but some of their descendants in later years, and some are yet.

The next place on the left, known as "Meadow Brook" and now owned by W. G. Saunders Jr. was occupied by different families from time to time, but I have no trustworthy memory of the "seventies" on that point. Old St. John's Episcopal church looked about as it does now, and had regular services conducted by the Rector in Suffolk, Rev. Mr. Craig and later Rev. Mr. Hough. "Cedar Brook Farm" the next on our right, one of the best homes of the antebellum days, looking new and in good condition, though a hundred years old, was variously occupied in the first two decades of my memory, but my recollection is not clear as to any particular period. At one time it was owned and occupied by Dr. Edwin Phillips, a practicing physician and a prominent citizen of the county. In the later seventies, he was living in Smithfield, and later went to Suffolk and there spent the remainder of his life. He was a cultured man of striking personality and a fine conversationalist, but for some reason did not attain eminent success. He left two daughters one of whom married Sheriff A. H. Baker of Suffolk.

*copy of
rec'd
Holladay's
Hall*

Holiday's Point is next on the right of the old road, and extends to the Nansemond river. At this time it was owned by a person or persons who lived elsewhere, and was a very neglected farm, occupied by several tenants. C. W. (Wesley) Pitt lived in the main house. His wife was a widow; Gayle, or Gale, her maiden name being Elizabeth Edwards. She had one daughter when he married her, whose name was Mollie. This daughter married Charlie Marshal, a great nephew of the late Chief Justice John Marshall. Mr. Pitt had previously been married and had three children by his first wife: James E. (Luck) Pitt, Fannie and John Wesley. There were also some children by the last marriage; of whom Charlie H. Pitt of Chuckatuck was one. The entire family were either members of Oakland or became members later. Wesley Pitt became a deacon and was treasurer of the church. He was active and useful till his death. Julius Crumpler lived in the house near the wharf. He was an active member and his children became members in due time, one of whom, Mrs. W. C. Matthews, is living and an active member. George Luke lived out on the road at the gate, and had some small children at that time. Mrs. Luke was Avarilla Gayle, daughter of John Thomas Gayle and Margaret Pitt Gayle. They were Oakland people and their children and grandchildren are still among the loyal and active members. One grandson, Johnson Griffin is a minister of the gospel and has served as Chaplain in the U. S. Army. A relative, little Mary Virginia Harrell who died at a tender age, was the first person buried in Oakland church cemetery.

The next farm, facing the river at Ferry Point, was owned by Col. Phillips, a Commission merchant of New York, and was occupied by Capt. William J. Sullivan, an oysterman by trade. He was married at this time to Mollie Pitt, daughter, I think, of James Pitt, a brother of Wesley Pitt, and they had one child. Mrs. Sullivan had been married before and had two other children. The Sullivan's were staunch Episcopalians, and I do not remember to have seen them at Oakland. Mrs. Sullivan had a sister Mrs. Annie Robbins who later married Peter Houseman. Mrs. Sullivan had some half brothers and other close kin who were identified with Oakland church.

Just beyond Ferry Point and facing the river was the home of Capt. John Pruden who belonged to a prominent family of Prudens in Isle of Wight County. He first married Sarah Ann Godwin, an aunt of the late Capt. C. B. Godwin and Mrs. Emma Pope. She died young, leaving one son, John Thomas Brooklyn Pruden, father of the three Pruden brothers in Suffolk. His second marriage was to Sarah Denson, by whom he had two daughters and five sons. The Prudens were Methodists but occasionally came to Oakland. Nathaniel became a Methodist minister, R. O. (Lannie) an Episcopal minister and A. C. (Al) also an Episcopal minister. Lannie was principal of the Episcopal school at Chatham, Va., for many years, and "Al" was a Chaplain in the Army for the most of his public life. One of the boys joined Oakland. None living now.

Coming back to Chuckatuck and turning down the Smithfield road, going beyond the grist mill and up the hill to the right we find the home of Matthew Crumpler Sr--the place where John Dailey now lives. Mr. Crumpler had three sons by a former marriage--Julius, John Robert and Joe, all of who married and had families. Living in the home at this time were the children by the second marriage;--George, Matthew W. and Lulu, of whom only one is living, M. W. Lulu married James E. (Luck) Pitt and left three children, Mrs. Mary Lou Robertson, Mrs. Maggie Spady and Clarence.

Next and on the left and high up on the hill were three homes, very much as they are today. The first was known as the Milbry home, but I do not know whether Mr. Milbry occupied it at this time, or whether he was living at that date. Next the Webb home, owned and

occupied by Capt. Samuel Webb. Capt. Webb had two children that I knew of, but I do not know what became of the son. The daughter, Rosa married James Pinner. The third was the John Cox place, later the home of George Emmett (Mannie) Pitt. John Cox was an uncle of Col. J. E. West of Suffolk, and came from Sussex County, in the seventies, and engaged in the sawmill business. He seemed prosperous and used to drive up to Oakland church ground in the finest "turnout" that ever appeared there in those days. No Packard, or Rolls-Royce has ever looked as grand to me as that shining carriage and those high-stepping horses looked to my childhood mind in those days. That was the only one of that time brought to Oakland in those days. Two Oakland families had top-buggies, but most people came in farm carts or walked. If an Oakland family were to alight from an airplane some Sunday morning now, it would not attract more attention. Mr. Cox was married to a Miss Drewry in Sussex County, and had a daughter, Rena, by this marriage. He was married, after her death, to a Miss Cofer of Isle of Wight County and they had three children - Jennie, who is a widow, was living, in Norfolk, and two sons, one deceased. The Coxes attended Oakland and after the widow Cox married Wilbur Pruden, the Cox children and the Pruden children came to Oakland church and Sunday School and became identified with the church, if not members.

Just across the road to the right stood the old "Wells" home, now abandoned. It was the home of three Wells brothers, all dead years ago. The property now belongs to the Marl Co. The Wells brothers were not connected with Oakland. Turning right into the road at Wells store, there are two or three homes I am concerned about. I know nothing of the rest. First was the "Lawrence Place", maybe the one now called "Cotton Plains". Robert, Mary and Anna Lawrence lived there. Neither ever married. Miss Mary was a member of Oakland from my first recollection. Robert came into the church later. There was another sister who married a Godwin and was the grandmother of Russell Kirk. Miss Mary was an unusually fine character, educated, refined, with high ideals, strong Christian faith and loyalty. She taught in the Sunday School till enfeebled with age. I recall now how I was impressed in my boyhood by the character of her teaching.

Farther down and on Chuckatuck Creek was the home of Nathaniel Newman Pitt, who married Luvinia Baker, and had a large family-two daughters, "Lady" and "Eddie", nicknames I suppose, and five sons-George, Emmett (Mannie), James, Walter, Dock and Meadow the only one now living. The family was Baptist and had no direct relation to Oakland, but often attended it. One son married an Oakland member, and "Nat" Pitt's brother, Wesley Pitt was a prominent member of Oakland, and his descendants still are; while his sister, Margaret, Mrs. John Thomas Gayle, has been the ancestress of a host of Oakland church members during its history, and still they multiply.

By the side of this place and facing the Creek was the Aaron Pruden home, now the J. T. (Bud) Brock home. Aaron Pruden was the son of Henry and "Kitty" Pruden of Isle of Wight Co., and a great uncle of E. L. Pruden and C. T. Pruden et als. He married Keziah Newman and had three children, John, Wilbur and Cornelia. Keziah Newman the daughter of John Newman who lived on the Island near the south end of the James River Bridge. I know nothing about the church relations, if any, of the family, except Cornelia, who at this period was a widow Brock, living with her three children in the Aaron Pruden home. She was a member of Oakland church, a regular attendant, and brought her children up in the church, and the two living are still coming, loyal and faithful, Mrs. C. H. Pitt and J. T. Brock.

Coming again to Oakland, and taking the Everett's Bridge road, first on the right was the John Phillips Cowling Place. Mr. Cowling was the son of John Monroe and Mary Phillips Cowling, a young man of striking personality, good education and brilliant mind. He was a bachelor, at this time, but a few years later married Miss Carrie Tynes. He was not identified with any church, but occasionally came to Oakland. He had a fine start in life, and seemed capable of high attainment, but took to drink, lost all and died homeless and obscure.

The next home off the right was the John Beale home. He married Adline Dixon and had four sons and five daughters. They were all brought up to attend Oakland church and Sunday School and became members in due time. Later Mr. Beale united with Oakland and remained a loyal member til his death. His son, A. L. Beale, is the only one now living.

The next place, "Box Hall" was occupied during the "seventies" by different tenants, none of whom, so far as I know, had any relation to Oakland. The next on the same side was the James R. Minton Farm, later known as the Claude Minton Farm and home looking almost as it does today, probably not as well kept up in appearance. It was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey Whitehead, her son Claude Minton (a son by her first marriage to James R. Minton) the late C. B. Godwin, Mrs. Whiteheads nephew. Mrs. Whitehead was a daughter of Henry and "Kitty" Pruden, the great grand parents of E. L. and C. T. Pruden, before mentioned herein. There also lived with them at one period a young man by the name of Johnnie Whitehead, a nephew of Dempsey Whitehead. I suppose he was a member of Oakland, as he was a regular attendant at church and Sunday School. He was a very pleasant and attractive young man. He died in this period. Dempsey Whitehead was a charter member of Oakland church, and Mrs. Whitehead may have been also. There is a memorial window in the old part of the church in her honor. She died in the "seventies" and she was buried by the side of her first husband on the old "Miller Farm", in the old Minton burial ground. The graves are marked by a marble slab. After her death Mr. Whitehead turned the farm over to C. T. Minton, the only heir, and purchased a home on Chuckatuck Creek, where he spent the rest of his days.

A few hundred yards further to the right, high upon the hill at Everett's Bridge, was the John Kirk home, newly built. Mr. Kirk came from Pennsylvania to manage an estate of about 1,000 acres, owned by Kirk, Shoemaker and Co., (of Philadelphia, I think). This property was the maiden inheritance of Hannah Shrivvers and extended about two miles up the road towards Longview. She was the grandmother of the late Capt. C. B. Godwin and Mrs. Emma Pope. Mr. Kirk married Margaret Godwin. J. Russell Kirk is their son. Mr. John Kirk was not identified with any church so far as I know, but often came to Oakland in his young days. Mrs. Kirk and her family were Episcopalians. Russell Kirk is a friend of Oakland and has made liberal contributions to the support of Elon College.

Turning here to the right, up the Longview and Smithfield road on the left near the top of the hill stood a house long since destroyed in which lived a widow Sears with her three single children, Bryant, Carrie and Emma, and her married daughter Mrs. Richard Doughtie. They had no relation to Oakland, at this time; but later, Carrie who married Capt. C. C. Thompson and Emma who married Samuel J. Thompson, and their families became active members of Oakland. Further on to the left and back from the road, lived the Jim Crocker family. Mrs. Crocker had two children by her first husband, who was Barney Matthews; Thomas D. Matthews and Mary Eliza Matthews Beale. Also there were two Crockers

children, Maggie who married John P. Salmon and Jimmie who died young. The three older children became lifelong members of Oakland, and some of their descendants still are. On the same side and further back in the woods, was the Jonathan Godwin home. The parents were Methodists, but the children attended Oakland church and Sunday School, and several of them were members of the church as long as they remained in the community. Both the Wagner and the Godwin homes have long been abandoned and have rotted down. Farms partly grown up in woods. Adjacent to the Godwins was the Wagner (Frederick) family, consisting of Civilla, John and Charles by the first wife; Eliza Dixon, and Fritz, Edward, Robert and Kass by the second wife, Joanna Dixon. Other children were born later. The children attended Oakland Sunday School and church, and most of them became members of the church. Several are still active and useful members.

On the opposite right hand side of the road, just one mile from Everett's Bridge, was the old "Shriver Home", now the G. Curtis Griffin place. In the seventies this was a part of the Kirk, Shoemaker and Co. possessions. The different tenants of the early "seventies" had no relation to Oakland church, but in the later "seventies" it was occupied by the John B. Newman family which has been a part of Oakland almost from its beginning to the present. I do not think any Shrivvers were ever members of the church at Oakland. They date too far back. But there has been a strong current of Shriver blood under other names in Oakland church throughout its history. A mile further on the left hand and well back in the woods was the home of "Ned Pitt" and his wife Ann Urquhart, a son Jack and a nephew John Wesley Pitt. This house rotted down and the farm has grown up. Jack was a member of Oakland and John Wesley became identified later. By the side of the "Ned" Pitt place was the Henry Pitt place. Henry Pitt was the father of "Ned", Nat, Tom and others. Died before the Civil War. The latter was dead, but his widow, "Aunt" Nancy Newman Pitt still lived in the home with her son Thomas and his family. Aunt Nancy was related to Oakland, at least, through two of her children, Wesley and Margaret as mentioned before in this paper.

A little further on to the right and back from the highway, lived the Joe Pruden family. Mr. Pruden was not identified with any church, but has made a substantial contribution to Oakland through his posterity. I think Mrs. Pruden was a member, as she attended Oakland, and, would sometimes walk 2 or three miles to attend the church. She died in middle life and her funeral was conducted by Rev. E. W. Beale.

Coming back to Everett's Bridge and taking the Suffolk road by Lake Prince, we come to the home of Thomas J. Saunders Sr., on the left and back on the Creek, later known as the "Al Saunders Farm". Mr. Saunders was a charter member of Oakland. He formerly lived at Driver (now called that) and was a member of Berea, Nansemond church. He was a deacon and loyal member to the end. His five sons and three daughters were brought up to attend Oakland church, and all became members except one. The next place on the corner with Millner's road, known for the past 60 years as the "Stebbins place" and occupied "Goodson" place, and was occupied in the "seventies" by a Mr. Atkinson and his wife, who was Missouri Goodson. This place was remembered as the scene of a tragedy. Mrs. Atkinson died suddenly, under suspicious circumstances. Mr. Atkinson was accused of poisoning her. He was convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary.

Next on the right of the Millner's road was the Joe Matthews home. Mrs. Matthews was a sister of Capt. E. C. Ramsay of Chuckatuck. I do not know about Mr. Matthews, but Mrs. Matthews and the older children were members of Oakland. By the side of their place and next to what is now Lake Prince, was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Job Holland Sr. Both the Matthews and Holland homes have been destroyed. Mrs. Holland was a sister of Joe Matthews. The Hollands were old at this time, and their older children married and had families.

Mrs. Holland was a lifelong member of Oakland, and the older children, if not all, were members. A little further down Millner's Creek, on the opposite side, was the Aaron Archer home. The Archers had two children, John and Ballie. John married Katie Archer, a step-daughter of Eli jah Richards. Ballie married Solomon J. Saunders. A part of the family were members of Bethlehem church and a part belonged to Oakland. "Sollie" Saunders was the treasurer of Oakland church for many years.

Coming again to Everett's Bridge, going down the Creek on the left side, we come first to the William Minton farm, later known as the Capt. Stephen Saunders place. Mr. Minton was a son of Jack Minton and a brother of James R. Minton. He had one son who was subnormal. They had no connection with Oakland church. By the side of this farm, and back from the creek, was the Albert Powell place, now a part of the Stephen Saunders farm. The home was long since destroyed. Mr. Powell had at least four sons, and some of them with families; were members of Oakland. He was an old man in the "seventies" and had grown grand children.

Next on the creek was the John Martin farm. Mr. Martin and his wife came from Germany when young. They had two children: the late John E. Martin and Anna who married (I think) Ira Cohoon. They were both members of Oakland and Mr. Martin joined later. A son of J. W. E. Martin taught for a number of years in Elon College. Next was the Nathaniel Pitman home. He married the widow of Clivy Pruden, who had two children, Pocahontas who married George Wilkerson was one of them. I do not know about Mrs. Pitman, but her children were identified with Oakland, and their bodies, along with hers, rest in Oakland cemetery. Then follows the Dr. Bob Tynes farm, occupied at this time by John Thomas Gayle and Mrs. Margaret Pitt Gayle, and their 6 sons and 5 daughters. This was an Oakland church family from the beginning; and the Gayles and their descendents have become a multitude, many of whom are still active and useful members of Oakland. Last and next to Reid's Ferry, was the Hurst home. Mr. and Mrs. John Hurst came from England. They were Episcopalians and rarely attended other churches. They had no children. Across the creek, and back from the Suffolk and Windsor road, was a farm that I cannot designate owned and occupied by John T. Harrell and wife who was Alexina Gayle. Their child, as before mentioned, was the first person buried in Oakland cemetery. They were mentioned, was the first person buried in Oakland cemetery. They were members of Oakland and their children became members later.

Coming again, and finally, to Oakland, and taking the highway leading to Isle of Wight, we go through the farm of the late Job Holland. This was the old Jack Minton place, then owned by Mills Minton, a wealthy farmer near Smithfield. In the early seventies it was occupied by Sley Pitt, Julius Crumpler and Dock Moody (father of Kenny Moody). In the later seventies it was purchased by Job Holland who spent the rest of his life there. He joined Oakland soon after it was organized and his family came in later. The next and adjoining was another old "Minton" farm, at this time owned by Joshua B. Hurst and wife who lived in New York. It was occupied by John Bridger Newman and wife who was Hannah Urquhart, and their seven children. Mr. and Mrs. Newman had been members of Methodist churches before the Civil War. The children were brought up to attend Oakland Sunday School and all became members of the church. Three of the sons became ministers: William U. who taught Greek and Bible in Elon College for fifty years; Nathaniel G. who was in the active pastorate for 47 years and Charles a deacon, and one daughter married a minister who taught in Elon College for many years.

Adjacent to this farm on the south, was the Cowling place, the home of John Monroe Cowling and his wife Mary Phillips Cowling and their four daughters and one son. Mr. Cowling was among the

educated men in this section. He had a poetic mind, wrote beautifully and spoke fluently. He was brought up at the "Billie Moore" place, then owned and occupied by the Cowlings, a prominent family in those days. The Cowlings were staunch Methodists, and the "Cowlings Chapel" which stood just across the road from the home of the late George W. Gayle was named after them. They sometimes came to Oakland. Sometime in the seventies, Mrs. Cowling was conducting a Sunday School in the afternoon, under a bush shelter at Everett's Bridge. I remember going there when a child and seeing Tom Matthews and Jim Pruden "cutting hot jackets" on their way home. By the side of this place to the South was the Dixon home. Aunt Nancy, her son George and son Bill Monroe lived there. She had reared a large family and all but George married and had families, some of them had grown grandchildren. As nearly all have been so closely related to Oakland I give their names: John, who married "Puss" Pruden; Jane, who married a Mr. Monroe in Norfolk; Adeline, who married John Beale; Eliza, who married Frederick Wagner; Sallie Ann who married James Richard Holland; Joanna, who married Frederick Wagner (2nd wife) and George, who married Rosa Ward in middle life. "Aunt" Nancy married first William Dixon, then George Dixon, kinsman but not brothers. William Dixon was a blacksmith and discovered how he could heat and beat common iron into steel. He invented and made at his anvil a fishhook which has been sold for two generations as the "Dixon" hook.

Some fishermen prefer it now to any other hook. The Dixons were in humble circumstances and lived in an humble home, but "Aunt Nancy" as she was familiarly called was "some of the salt of the earth." No hardship could quench her spirit or dim her faith. Left a widow she completed the rearing of a large family on a small plot of ground-poor land-and stamped upon her family the impress of her own character. She was a staunch member of Oakland church, and might have been a charter member. She walked to Oakland to bring her quarterly dues, She always sat in the amen corner to the right of the pulpit.

In passing Everett's Bridge on the Suffolk road, I omitted two homes, those of Henry Phillips and George Whitley, crossing the bridge and to the right, just in front of the W. K. Wagner home, stood the store and home (in one) of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Phillips. Mr. Phillips had conducted a general merchandise store, or business, here since the Civil War. Mrs. Phillips was Emily J. Outland. They had no children. She worked in the store regularly, and they had no outside help except on Saturdays in the busy season. Mr. Phillips was a man of strict integrity and was accommodating to his customers. He was a Methodist and attended the Methodist church. I never saw Mrs. Phillips away from the store or home. After some "hot words" one morning Mr. Phillips walked out leaving behind him all he had earned since the Civil War, except his "colt and jumper", and never returned. The business and property were in Mrs. Phillips name, and she continued to carry on the business. He died a few years later in very humble circumstances.

After crossing the Orbit and Millner's road, and to the right; and back from the highway, was the George Whitley home. Mr. Whitley was an old man, with his second set of children grown. They attended Oakland, and some, if not all became members. One daughter, Polly, married J. R. Delk who was a member of Oakland. Scott Whitley and Jack J. Whitley were sons of George Whitley.

Coming back to the Reid's Ferry and Suffolk road, I happened to omit two Oakland families, as they did not have settled home at this time--the John Henry Gayle family and Alex Powell family. They lived somewhere in Reid's Ferry neighborhood. Mr. Gayle married Barbara Thompson and they had young children at this time. They made a large contribution to Oakland's membership. Their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are still among the active and useful members.

FU

Alex Powell married a Miss Butler (I think) and I thing they still have descendents in Oakland.

Also living in Chuckatuck and Oakland community there were three families of sons and perhaps daughters about whose parents I have no definite information or knowledge, nor can I locate their homes; the Pecks, Pinnars and Kilbys. I understand the Kilby's lived at the Dr. Butts farm and the Pinnars at the Pembroke farm--but this is more or less uncertain. There were five of the Peck brothers: Bob, Nat, Jim, John and George. At least two of these were members of Oakland. Nat. B. Peck has descendents active in Oakland today. There were five Pinner brothers; Jim, Ham, Arthur, Filmore and Charlie. None of these was identified with Oakland, but some of them attended the church, and Arthur married a member of the church. Of the Kilbys I remember distinctly only Walter, but there was a son named Eddie and a sister, or daughter named Julia. There was a Julia Pinner also.

July 1946

N. G. Newman

Note by I. W. Johnson

The material for this paper was prepared by Dr. N. G. Newman and sent to me in July 1946. The work of preparing this for mimeographing required a great deal of patience and time. Dr. Newman has given a great deal of time to the collection of this material. The information herein probably cannot be secured elsewhere. He has made a rich historical contribution by his arduous work and careful preparation. Probably there are errors and omissions in the material which should be corrected. I have made errors in putting this into type. It is not easy to correct errors made in cutting stencils for this kind of work. One is surprised by the great store of information Dr. Newman has at hand in recounting the personal recollections of the "seventies". Oakland church and community owes him a debt of gratitude for this contribution.

This sketch has been prepared and made available for the use of the public. 100 copies or more have been printed in this form. This copy in connection with the historical sketch of Oakland church should be preserved in the homes of those who received them, and copies should be filed with the secretary of the church for future reference. It was a pleasure for me to type this copy-for it gave me much information about persons and places I have known through the years. I hope you will appreciate these valuable and interesting records.

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CHUCKATUCK

Chuckatuck is an ancient village and is an Indian name, meaning "Crooked Creek." It is located on the highway between Suffolk and Smithfield, State Route No. 10, at the head of navigation on Chuckatuck Creek years ago.

Chuckatuck is where the first settlements of the country were located. It was a country village in 1672 and was visited by Reverend George Fox, the founder of the Friend Society. After his visit a congregation of Friends gathered in the village.

The Society of Friends is a religion of the Christian Faith whose members are often called Quakers. Members of the Society prefer to be called Friends. The name "Quaker", was a nickname at first, and the Quakers thought it mockery, but now they realize it is no longer an insult to be called a "Quaker." The name came from a speech by George Fox, the founder, in which he called upon the listeners to "tremble" at the word of the "Lord".

A magistrate, Justice Gervase Bennett, thereupon called their group the "Quakers." The Society was founded in England about 1640. The first Friends didn't approve of the elaborate ceremonies of the church of England. They believed in very simple living. They adopted many customs which made them seem strange to their neighbors. Their dress was simple and they used the pronouns "thee and thou" in their everyday conversations. Many of the modern day Friends don't use these customs now. The central belief of the Friend Society is what they call the "Lunar Light". They believe that the spirit of God is present in every man to guide him into the truth.

The man of the Friends Society will not join the armed forces in time of war, although the church allows each member to decide for himself what he wants to do. Even then most of the men will not join.

The religious gatherings of the Friends are called meetings and their churches are called meeting houses.

The worship meetings are very simple. Many of the meetings have no ministers. All members take part as they are called upon. Women as well as men preach.

The Friends do not practice baptism or communion as ritual.

Most Friends in the United States today live in the Northwestern and Middlewestern States. There are over 113,000 Friends in the United States. They are divided among several groups. The Five Year meeting group has about 70,000 members.

The largest of the smaller groups, the Hicksites, has about 18,000 members.

The first Friends were severely prosecuted, both in Great Britain and in America, but the Society grew quickly. William Penn, a Quaker leader founded the Colony of Pennsylvania in 1681. Pennsylvania long remained a stronghold of the Friends.

Chuckatuck was visited by the British under Arnold on his trip to Portsmouth and the Americans who followed him on that march. Lord Cornwallis passed through the village in 1781.

The Chuckatuck People paid more attention to education than those of other sections of the country. Most of these people were of the Episcopalian faith.

There records were found to be the most complete of any other in Virginia.

This is same house
I saw you the photo
of after
PM.



Gweny said
Grandma lived in this house

The home in the background was formerly the Captain Charlie Godwin home, then the M. W. Crumpler Home after an exchange of houses.

My father said years ago, dormant windows were in front of the house. He said when he moved there as a boarder, windows were all the way across.

The porch that you come in from the screen door was all dirt and the whole bottom basement floor was dirt with bricks and boards across them. The dining room and kitchen were in this part of the house and still is.

Shown above on Sunday, August 16, 1970 from left to right are: Johnnie Winslow, Kent Gwaltney, and John Kelly selling cantaloupes and watermelons in the front yard of the M. W. Crumpler, F. A. Spady, Sr. home.